

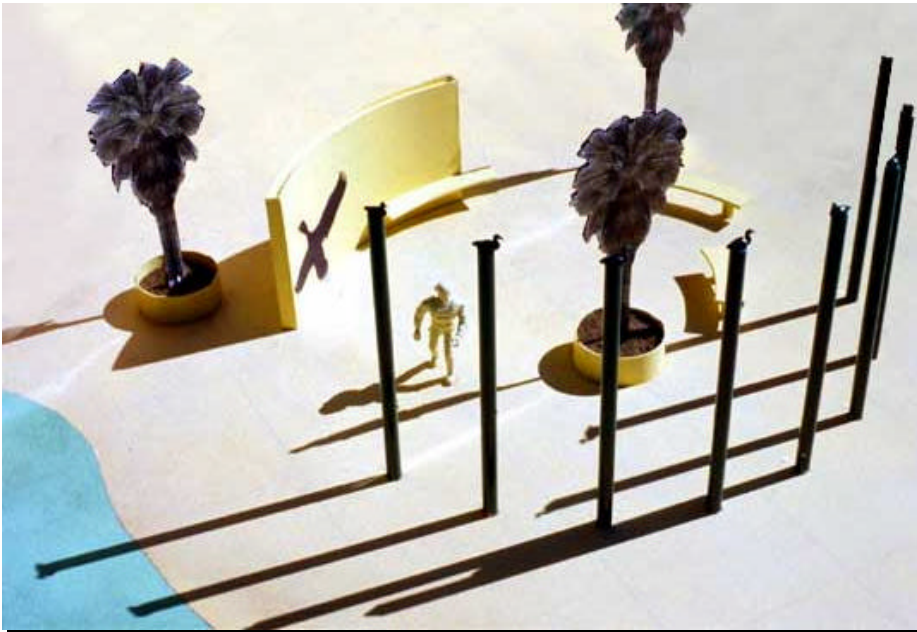
CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

DESIGN ENHANCEMENTS



A Quarterly Report of the City Architect's Office. Summer 2001, Volume 3 – Issue 2.
P.O. Box 839966 San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH HELPS "DUCK PLAZA" TAKE FLIGHT



PROJECT FACTS

Project: Duck Pond Park Land Acquisition and Improvements
Location: District 4, Heritage Park Neighborhood Association "Duck Pond."
Scope of Work: Acquisition of park property at Dugas and Ellison Drive and basic park improvements.
Funding: 1999 park bonds
Schedule of Work: Est. construction start 8-01
Est. construction end: 12-01

Eight steel columns arc around a curved wall incorporating bench seating that cantilevers off the wall. The plaza is open with components turned inward creating a spiral

form.

Construction is set to begin on the Heritage Park project, which features an artist designed and fabricated entryway and plaza called *Duck Plaza*. The project culminated from the strong collaboration between Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Heritage Park Neighborhood Association, Urban Spaces Design Group, and local sculptor Bill FitzGibbons.

FitzGibbons's design solution incorporates community viewpoints that were raised in several meetings. While Duck Plaza serves as a landmark that defines the entrance to the park, it also incorporates a neighborhood information center kiosk, including trees and seating.

The design uses graphics conservatively, such as steel silhouettes depicting ducks lifting into flight atop each column. A second silhouette depicts a duck with both wings spread, and is inset into the curved wall.

Congratulations to the Aviation Department for being included in the Public Art: Year in Review issue of Art in America. The August issue features "Light Pass" by Chris Janney, a design enhancement component of S.A.I.A.'s long-term parking garage. For more on "Light Pass" see Summer 2000. Vol. 2 Issue 1.

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Convention Center Expansion Update

As construction of the Convention Center Expansion Project nears completion, three new artworks to the seven-component South Wall Grottos are being installed. They will be adjacent to the completed work by Florida artist; Carlos Alvez's "Grotto de Pensamientos" installed in 1999.

Artist: Say Sí students
Title: A San Antonio Tapestry



Say Sí, a local visual and media arts program for students from local urban high schools and middle schools, has completed the first installment of a mixed media student-made artwork entitled, "A San Antonio Tapestry." The background consists of painted panels mounted to the limestone grotto wall. Arranged in front of the panels are found and created artifacts, such as two tile-mosaic cacti and a rustic iron gate, that will be installed inside the grotto. The student artists' Leora Uribe, Zane Lewis, David Cordero, Pablo Veliz, and Johnny Ramos worked under the instruction of Say Sí mentor artists, and are finishing the last components in the classroom studio to be installed this August.



Another local artist, Alex De Leon, has mounted 14 separate panels consisting of hand-painted ceramic tiles depicting various themes. Each angular panel depicts a unique image, and adds to a composite artwork that gives the spectator insight to a native south Texan's visual vernacular. De Leon's colorful installation includes circling vultures, snakes in cactus, roosters and roses.

Artist: Alex De Leon
Title: *He's usually on the level, but every once in a while he takes a weird angle*



Artist: Cakky Brawley
Title: Grotto de San Antonio



Cakky Brawley's installation consists of a fabricated aluminum work entitled "Grotto de San Antonio." Intricate designs cut out of 1/2-inch aluminum sheet delineate elegant lines representative of a lantern-niche-like sculpture that fills the 16'X8' grotto. Crowning the interior space is an arch of pointed rays emanating from an inset glass orb. Cakky's detailed installation contrasts the Convention Center's broad minimal architecture and offers a unique interpretation of the grotto and incorporates culture and craft tradition of the region. The aluminum artwork suggests the craftsmanship that is found in decorative and religious perforated and punched tin metal Mexican folk art.



Project News

Brackenridge Park: "Bridging the Past"

Carlos Cortés can be seen outside his South St. Mary's Street studio following the custom techniques that have been developed by his family for generations. His latest public sector project involves the restoration of Brackenridge Park's pedestrian bridge, created a half century ago by his Uncle, Dionisio Rodriguez.

Carlos's father Maximo Cortés and Dionisio Rodriguez began in the 1920s, honing the craft of producing natural-looking wood textures for concrete sculptures. The unique process involves concrete being poured



Above: Carlos Cortés forming concrete. Below: Dionisio Rodriguez's pedestrian bridge.

PROJECT FACTS

Project: Brackenridge Park

Rehabilitation - Package A

Location: Council Districts 1, 2
and 9, 3500 N. St. Mary's

Scope of Work: Improved
vehicular circulation; picnic
facilities; security and
pedestrian lighting; rest room
rehabilitation; new rest room;
Joske pavilion rehabilitation;
river wall and bank restoration;
playground; replace sewer lines
and other utilities; rehabilitate
Rodriguez sculptures; Package
A involves work north of Tuleta
Drive to Hildebrand.

Funding: Park Bonds

Schedule of Work: Construction
starts - 8-01. Est. construction
end - 8-02



into a metal lath, shaped, molded, and then stained naturally with mineral salt and local dyes. Many functional works of art by Cortés and Rodriguez can still be found in Mexico & throughout the U.S. Dionisio died in 1955, and Maximo in 1997, but the craft lives on through their great-nephew and son. Carlos' concrete creations already grace local parks, museums, backyards and missions. He has completed restoration of some of Rodriguez's original large-scale concrete projects in Tennessee and Arkansas.

More artistic enhancements are under development for the Brackenridge Park Rehabilitation Project. Project architects, Saldaña and Associates, are working in collaboration with selected artists Ann Wallace and Susan Budge on additional design enhancement components. More to come on these projects in upcoming newsletters.

Internet News: COSAS and P.A.D.E. Program website

This past May, the Public Art and Design Enhancement Program launched a new website project, the Catalog of On-Site Artist Services or COSAS, and simultaneously launched the program's own website within the Department of Public Works departmental website. Make sure to visit our new website and find out more about public art and design enhancements in San Antonio. Key components of the website are:

- Current, past and future project lists (with images)
- Program's complete policy and guidelines page
- Downloadable *Design Enhancements* newsletters
- The Public Art and Design Enhancement *Online Kiosk* for postings and links
- Downloadable San Antonio Artist Registry application form
- Information on public exhibitions, outreach services and program history



[www.sanantonio.gov/
pubwrks/pubart](http://www.sanantonio.gov/pubwrks/pubart)



Carmen
Lomas
Garza
*Flowery
Words/
Stories,
Poems,
History &
Wisdom,
1993*

Carmen Lomas Garza:
A Retrospective
June - August, 2001
200 West Jones Avenue
San Antonio, Texas 78215

Free family activities
explore the art and
literature of Carmen

Lomas Garza! Class sizes are
limited! *Presented by the San*
Antonio Museum of Art & San
Antonio Public Library.
For registration & locations call 210-
207-2500.

The Great Experiment: George
Washington and the American
Republic

Exhibition of original documents
mounted by the Huntington Library
in 1998-1999 to commemorate the
two hundredth anniversary of
Washington's death.
June 28 - August 9, 2001
Central Library Gallery
600 Soledad S.A., TX 78205

PROJECT UPDATE



www.sanantonio.gov/cosas

New Entries

Following the COSAS kick-off this past May 14th, we are undertaking the task of updating the website and adding selected artists to the COSAS website. We encourage all San Antonio Area artists and artisans to continue to apply for participation in COSAS. We hope to build on the enthusiastic and growing interest that COSAS is generating throughout the civic arts and design professions, and the global online community. Call 207-2277 for more information about COSAS, COSAS artists and other resources.

*More to updates on COSAS in upcoming
Design Enhancement Newsletters.*

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Design Enhancements is published by the Department of Public Works' Public Art and Design Enhancement Program, and is distributed to all professionals in the field of design, and community and civic groups to foster collaboration and design enhancements for public spaces that promotes economic development and neighborhood revitalization in San Antonio. To Reach Us: Send questions, comments or ideas to James LeFlore, **Design Enhancements**, Public Works; City Architect's Office, P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio Texas 78283-3966. Call (210)-207-2277. Fax (210)-207-4418 or email to jlflore@ci.sat.tx.us.